

## WRITING SAMPLE

# Tic-tac-toe



Tic-tac-toe is one of the most well known games in the world. It is probably popular because it is simple, easy, and it takes almost no time. The only things you need to play are a pencil, a piece of paper, and a friend. You can even play with chalk on a sidewalk, or even just a stick in the dirt.

First, draw a game board using two parallel horizontal lines and two parallel vertical lines. Leave space between all the lines so that there is room to write X's and O's in each square. There should be nine squares total. The final game board should look like this: #. Next, the object of the game is to draw three X's or three O's in a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal row. Make the game more challenging by drawing a game board using three horizontal and three vertical lines, or even four lines. If you are playing with three lines, you will need to draw four X's or O's in a row to win. If you are playing with four lines, you will have to draw five. The game gets more difficult to win as you draw more lines.

Then, decide who will start by rolling a die or doing a coin toss. The starting player draws an X in one of the spaces. The center space is usually the best in the first game board mentioned above, but a good player can win from any space on any of the game boards. The other player draws an O in any of the other spaces.

Last, to play well, you must not only make your own row, but also block the other player from making a row. Make sure you watch where the other player puts the symbols. If he or she gets two in a row and needs three to win, you need to place your symbol where his or her third symbol would go in the row. If the board fills up without either player making a full row, it is a tie game. Play again to find the winner.

Tic-tac-toe is an easy game to set up, play, and win. If you've got a friend and a few spare moments, you can play a few rounds to pass the time. Plus, you can try different variations using more lines and more squares. Try it today!

### GRAPHIC ORGANIZER SAMPLE (1 of 2)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Topic

tic-tac-toe  well known  
simple, quick, easy

#### Materials

pencil friend paper sidewalk or dirt

#### Sequence Word

#### Step

#### Details

1.

first

draw game board

- two parallel horizontal and vertical lines ( # )
- leave space
- nine squares

2.

next

objective: draw  
3 X's or O's in a row

- horizontal, vertical, and diagonal rows
- challenge: 3-4 vertical & horizontal lines
- more difficult with more lines

3.

then

choose starting player

- roll die, coin toss
- starter draws X (center square is best)
- other player draws O

(Write on the back of this page if more steps are needed.)

## GRAPHIC ORGANIZER SAMPLE (2 of 2)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sequence Word	Step	Details
4. last	block other player	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• watch where symbols are drawn</li> <li>• block two symbols in a row</li> <li>• if tie, play again</li> </ul>

## GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic

Materials

Sequence Word

Step

Details

1.

•

•

•

2.

•

•

•

3.

•

•

•

*(Write on the back of this page if more steps are needed.)*

## REVISION CHECKLIST

**Instructions:** Check each box as you read over your writing.

- ☐ My introduction tells the topic, and materials and preparation needed for the task.
- ☐ The body includes several developed steps in order.
- ☐ I use descriptive details to clarify each step.
- ☐ I use words such as *first*, *next*, *then*, and *last* to order steps.
- ☐ I include enough detail to clarify steps that could be confusing to readers.
- ☐ The steps are clear and easy to follow.
- ☐ I delete information that is not important to completing the task.
- ☐ I use simple, compound, and complex sentences.
- ☐ My conclusion sums up what has been taught and encourages readers to try the task.



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## POSTER

## Tic-tac-toe



## Introduction

Tic-tac-toe is one of the most well known games in the world. It is probably popular because it is simple, easy, and it takes almost no time. **Materials** The only things you need to play are a pencil, a piece of paper, and a friend. You can even play with chalk on a sidewalk, or even just a stick in the dirt.

## Steps

**First**, draw a game board using two parallel horizontal lines and two parallel vertical lines. Leave space between all the lines so that there is room to write X's and O's in each square. There should be nine squares total. The final game board should look like this: #. **Next**, the object of the game is to draw three X's or three O's in a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal row. Make the game more challenging by drawing a game board using three horizontal and three vertical lines, or even four lines. If you are playing with three lines, you will need to draw four X's or O's in a row to win. If you are playing with four lines, you will have to draw five. The game gets more difficult to win as you draw more lines.

**Then**, decide who will start by rolling a die or doing a coin toss. The starting player draws an X in one of the spaces. The center space is usually the best in the first game board mentioned above, but a good player can win from any space on any of the game boards. The other player draws an O in any of the other spaces.

**Last**, to play well, you must not only make your own row, but also block the other player from making a row. Make sure you watch where the other player puts the symbols. If he or she gets two in a row and needs three to win, you need to place your symbol where his or her third symbol would go in the row. If the board fills up without either player making a full row, it is a tie game. Play again to find the winner.

## Conclusion

Tic-tac-toe is an easy game to set up, play, and win. If you've got a friend and a few spare moments, you can play a few rounds to pass the time. Plus, you can try different variations using more lines and more squares. Try it today!

### TEACHER RUBRIC

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Check the box next to each number that best describes the student's writing.

#### A. Introduction

- ☐ 4. Developed introduction in paragraph form
- ☐ 3. Introduction with some detail included
- ☐ 2. Simple beginning paragraph
- ☐ 1. Simple beginning sentence
- ☐ 0. Missing a beginning/introduction



#### B. Body: Organizes steps

- ☐ 4. At least three developed steps organized into paragraphs; excludes irrelevant information; precise word choice
- ☐ 3. At least three steps each organized into a body paragraph; varied word choice
- ☐ 2. More than one step organized into a body paragraph
- ☐ 1. Steps organized into sentences; no separate body paragraph
- ☐ 0. No organization of ideas; random words and/or phrases

#### C. Includes descriptive details

- ☐ 4. At least three descriptive details about each idea
- ☐ 3. At least two descriptive details about each idea
- ☐ 2. One detail about each idea; some are descriptive
- ☐ 1. Basic detail included about some ideas
- ☐ 0. No details included

#### D. Uses sequence words

- ☐ 3. Consistently
- ☐ 2. Most of the time
- ☐ 1. Inconsistently
- ☐ 0. Not at all

#### E. Conclusion

- ☐ 4. Developed conclusion in paragraph form
- ☐ 3. Conclusion with some detail included
- ☐ 2. Simple ending paragraph
- ☐ 1. Simple ending sentence
- ☐ 0. Missing an ending/conclusion

Beginning: 0-7  
 Early Developing: 8-11  
 Developing: 12-15  
 Fluent: 16-19

**Score** \_\_\_\_\_

